

SENATE BILL 979

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6,  
relative to the powers of the board of  
commissioners of any municipality that adopts a  
city manager–commission charter.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 20, Part 1, is amended by  
adding a new section:

(a) Subject to the further provisions of this section, the board of commissioners of any municipality incorporated under this charter that is located within a county that has adopted a charter form of government is authorized, upon its own initiative and upon the adoption of an ordinance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at two (2) separate meetings, to establish term limits for the mayor and the board of commissioners of such municipality in such manner as shall be designated by the ordinance. The operation of the ordinance shall be subject to approval of the voters as required in subsection (b).

(b)

(1) Any ordinance to establish term limits for the mayor and board of commissioners of any municipality to which subsection (a) applies shall not become operative until approved in an election herein provided in the municipality. Upon the adoption of the ordinance, the mayor shall notify the county election commission to hold an election as provided in this subsection (b).

(2) After the receipt of a certified copy of such ordinance, the county election commission shall hold an election on the question pursuant to § 2-3-204, providing options to vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” the ordinance, and a majority vote

of those voting in the election shall determine whether the ordinance is to be operative.

(3) If the majority vote is for the ordinance, it shall be deemed to be operative on the date that the county election commission makes its official canvass of the election returns; provided, however, that no term limits shall apply until the election of the mayor and board of commissioners held after the ordinance is operative.

(4) If the majority vote is against the ordinance, no further elections on the question of term limits shall be held until at least four (4) years have expired from the previous election and only after the board of commissioners adopts a new ordinance for such purposes in accordance with subsection (a).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.